



Inventory and Monitoring Program

The San Francisco Bay Area Network Inventory and Monitoring Program tracks the status and trends of the region's natural resources in order to improve park management through greater reliance on scientific knowledge.

Project Highlights – May 2006

New Invasives Staff -- Please join us in welcoming Elizabeth Speith to the Inventory and Monitoring Program. Elizabeth was hired through the Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy and will be starting with us on 30th May. She will be working closely with Andrea Williams at Fort Cronkhite to test the Invasive Plant Early Detection Protocol by training and coordinating volunteers, conducting outreach, and managing survey data. This project is designed to help us detect invasive plant species early in the invasion process so parks can eradicate populations before they become widespread. Elizabeth comes well-recommended by her colleagues at the Hawaii Ecosystems at Risk (HEAR) and the Maui Invasive Species Council where she developed and maintained numerous websites and invasives-related training and reporting information. For a little over a year, she has also been acting as the field coordinator for an invasive species early detection project in Maui County in Hawaii to help the community identify target incipient invasive species.

For more information, contact Andrea Williams, Network Vegetation Specialist (Andrea_Williams@nps.gov; 415-331-0639).

Falcons Soar at Pinnacles - Confirmation of raptor nesting at Pinnacles has gone exceptionally well this year. There are currently 43 documented raptor nests in the park, representing 11 species of raptors. These numbers represent the most nests, and the most nesting species, ever confirmed at Pinnacles in a single season! At present there are 12 prairie falcon and one peregrine falcon nests. In addition, 29 other raptor nests have been confirmed this year. This includes eight red-tailed hawk and four red-shouldered hawk nests. Golden eagles have also been seen regularly in and near the park over the past month. The eagle pair at the Eucalyptus Grove, near the west side entrance to the monument, is feeding 2 eaglets that are currently 8 weeks old. Other diurnal (daytime) raptors with confirmed nests include American kestrels, white-tailed kites, and Cooper's hawks. So far, 6 owl nests have also been documented this year, representing the 3 largest owl species that occur in the park: great-horned owls, barn owls, and long-eared owls. Please note that revised climbing and hiking advisories are in effect. Check with the visitor center for details before hiking the trails.

For more information, contact Gavin Emmons, Network Raptor Bio-Technician, (Gavin_Emmons@nps.gov; 831-389-4485 x 270).

Fond Farewell – While the network is gaining new staff we are also losing a valuable asset. Jason Herynk has served the lead network contact and data manager at Pinnacles National Park since 2004. He supported the network and the park with his incredibly talented GIS skills and helped develop databases that will serve several of our long-term monitoring efforts. He is heading off to the Rocky Mountain Research Station Fire Laboratory in Montana. We are sorry to see him go but wish him the best.

To receive future editions of our highlights, please contact, Marcus_Koenen@nps.gov. For more information about the I & M Program: <http://www1.nature.nps.gov/im/units/sfan/index.htm>.